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DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Report of the Economic Committee

1. The Economic Committee considered the question of development and international economic cooperation at its 2nd to 4th, 8th, 9th, 11th to 14th and 16th meetings, on 30 June and 1, 20, 22, 23, 24 and 28 July 1992. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the work of its third special session (A/47/25); 1/

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the further substantive follow-up of General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187 by Governments and organizations of the United Nations system (A/47/121-E/1992/15);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on products harmful to health and the environment (A/47/222-E/1992/57 and Corr.1);

(d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the note and report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on the resource and other implications of the application of the new criteria for identifying the least developed countries on the implementation of the Programme of Action for those countries for the 1990s (A/47/278-E/1992/77);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on cooperation in fisheries in Africa (A/47/279-E/1992/79);

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/47/25).

(f) Report of the Secretary-General entitled "The unification of Yemen: support of the international community for its economic and social infrastructure" and "Assistance to Yemen" (A/47/283-E/1992/83);

(g) Letter dated 30 June 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the Geneva Declaration for Rural Women, adopted at the Summit on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women, held at Geneva on 25 and 26 February 1992 (A/47/308-E/1992/97);

(h) Report of the Committee for Development Planning on its twenty-eighth session (E/1992/27); 2/

(i) World Economic Survey, 1992 (E/1992/40 and Corr.1 and 2);

(j) Report of the Secretary-General on the main research findings of the United Nations system in major global economic and social trends, policies and emerging issues (E/1992/46);

(k) Note by the Secretary-General on combating aridity, soil erosion, salinity, water-logging, desertification and the effects of drought in South Asia (E/1992/53).

2. At the 2nd to 4th, 8th, 9th, 11th and 12th meetings, on 30 June and 1, 20 and 22 July, the Committee held a general discussion on the question of development and international economic cooperation.

3. At the 2nd meeting, on 30 June, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Deputy to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

4. At the 2nd and 9th meetings, on 30 June and 20 July, the Committee heard introductory statements by the Director of the Development Policy and Analysis Division of the Department of Economic and Social Development.

5. At the 11th meeting, on 22 July, the Committee heard introductory statements by the Assistant Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, the representative of the Economic and Social Council Affairs and Inter-Agency Coordination Division of the Department of Economic and Social Development and the representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

6. At the 2nd meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Pakistan (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77), Finland (on behalf of the Nordic countries),

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2/ To be issued as Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1992, Supplement No. 7 (E/1992/27).

China, Romania and Australia, as well as by the observer for Portugal (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Economic Community). The representatives of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Commission of the European Communities and the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Council, category I, also made statements.

7. At the 3rd meeting, on 30 June, statements were made by the representatives of Japan, Argentina, the Russian Federation and Sweden (on behalf of the Nordic countries). The representatives of the International Labour Organisation and the World Federation of Trade Unions, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Council, category I, also made statements.

8. At the 4th meeting, on 1 July, statements were made by the representatives of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Economic Community), Colombia, Yugoslavia, Mexico, Poland, the United States of America, Malaysia, Suriname, India, Algeria, Belarus and Bangladesh and by the observer for Sri Lanka.

9. At the 9th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Economic Community), Pakistan (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members if the Group of 77), the Philippines, Poland, Japan, the Russian Federation, Australia, Romania, Bangladesh, Morocco, Colombia, China and Chile, as well as by the observer for Denmark (on behalf of the Nordic countries). The representative of the International Labour Organisation made a statement. Statements were also made by the representatives of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions and the International Organization of Consumers Unions, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council, category I.

10. At the 11th meeting, on 22 July, statements were made by the representatives of Australia (on behalf of the Cairns group) and by the observer for Denmark (on behalf of the Nordic countries). The representatives of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Development Programme also made statements.

11. At the 12th meeting, on 22 July, statements were made by the representatives of China, Japan, the United States of America, Canada, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Chile, Morocco, the Philippines and Bangladesh. The representatives of the Commission of the European Communities, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Organization of Consumers Unions, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Council, category I, also made statements.

Geneva Summit on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women

12. At the 11th meeting, on 22 July, the representative of Belgium introduced, on behalf of Algeria, Angola, Barbados, 3/ Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, 3/ Botswana, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, 3/ Ecuador, Egypt, 3/ El Salvador, 3/ Guatemala, 3/ Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, 3/ Luxembourg, 3/ Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, 3/ Mongolia, 3/ Morocco, Nepal, 3/ Nigeria, 3/ Peru, Philippines, Senegal, 3/ Spain, Sri Lanka, 3/ Turkey, United Republic of Tanzania 3/ and Zaire, a draft resolution (E/1992/C.1/L.5) entitled "Geneva Summit on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women". Subsequently Bangladesh, Chile, Guinea-Bissau, 3/ Suriname, Switzerland, 3/ Togo and Tunisia 3/ joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, which read as follows:

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Recalling its resolution 1991/64 of 26 July 1991 on the Summit on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women,

"Recognizing the critical role of rural women as food producers and architects of household food security,

"Noting with deep concern the continuing rise in the number of rural women living in poverty,

"Reiterating its commitment to contribute to the improvement of the living conditions of rural women,

"Welcoming the organization of the Summit on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women, held in Geneva on 25 and 26 February 1992, with the participation of a large number of First Ladies and other high-level delegations,

"Expressing its appreciation to Her Majesty Queen Fabiola of Belgium, the patron of the Summit, to the First Ladies of Colombia, Egypt, Malaysia, Nigeria, Senegal and Turkey, members of the core group of initiators who launched the initiative to convene the Summit, and to the International Fund for Agricultural Development and other institutions that provided support for the Summit,

"1. Endorses the Geneva Declaration for Rural Women adopted at the Summit; 4/

3/ In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

4/ A/47/308-E/1992/97, annex.

"2. Calls on all States, and on the organizations, agencies, bodies and organs of the United Nations system, to take urgent measures, within their respective mandates, to implement the Geneva Declaration."

13. At the same meeting, the representative of Sri Lanka made a statement.

14. At the 16th meeting, on 28 July, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Selim Yenel (Turkey), introduced a draft resolution (E/1992/C.1/L.15), submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution E/1992/C.1/L.5.

15. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution E/1992/C.1/L.15 (see para. 25 below, draft resolution I).

16. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution E/1992/C.1/L.15, draft resolution E/1992/C.1/L.5 was withdrawn by the sponsors.

Cooperation in fisheries in Africa

17. At the 13th meeting, on 23 July, the representative of Morocco, on behalf of Benin, Cameroon, 3/ Cape Verde, 3/ Côte d'Ivoire, 3/ Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, 3/ Morocco, Senegal, 3/ Togo and Zaire, introduced a draft resolution (E/1992/C.1/L.8) entitled "Cooperation in fisheries in Africa". Subsequently, Angola, Congo, 3/ Mauritania, 3/ Nigeria, 3/ Sierra Leone 3/ and Suriname joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

18. At the 16th meeting, on 28 July, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Selim Yenel (Turkey), informed the Committee of the results of the informal consultations held on draft resolution E/1992/C.1/L.8 and amended operative paragraph 3 thereof by replacing the words "the protection and continued monitoring of the fishery resources of the region" by the words "for the protection and continued monitoring of the marine resources of the region".

19. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution E/1992/C.1/L.8, as orally amended (see para. 25 below, draft resolution II).

20. After the draft resolution was adopted, the representative of Algeria made a statement on behalf of Egypt, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Tunisia.

Combating aridity, soil erosion, salinity, water-logging, desertification and the effects of drought in South Asia

21. At the 14th meeting, on 24 July, the representative of Pakistan, on behalf of Bangladesh, India and the Islamic Republic of of Iran, introduced a draft resolution (E/1992/C.1/L.10) entitled "Combating aridity, soil erosion, salinity, water-logging, desertification and the effects of drought in South Asia".

22. At the 16th meeting, on 28 July, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Selim Yenel (Turkey), informed the Committee of the results of the

informal consultations held on draft resolution E/1992/C.1/L.10 and orally amended it as follows:

(a) In the third preambular paragraph, the words "the negotiations on a convention on drought and desertification" were replaced by the words "national and international cooperative efforts";

(b) In operative paragraph 2, the words "Council at its substantive session of 1993 and as an input for the negotiations on the convention on drought and desertification" were replaced by the words "General Assembly at its forty-seventh session".

23. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution E/1992/C.1/L.10, as orally amended (see para. 25 below, draft resolution III).

Documents considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with the question of development and international economic cooperation

24. At the 16th meeting, on 28 July, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council that it take note of the reports considered by the Council in connection with the question of development and international economic cooperation (see para. 26 below).

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

25. The Economic Committee recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Geneva Summit on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1991/64 of 26 July 1991 on the Summit on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women,

Recognizing the critical role of rural women as food producers and architects of household food security,

Noting with deep concern the continuing rise in the number of rural women living in poverty,

Reiterating its commitment to contribute to the improvement of the living conditions of rural women,

Welcoming the organization of the Summit on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women, held in Geneva on 25 and 26 February 1992, with the participation of a large number of First Ladies and other high-level delegations,

Expressing its appreciation to the Patron of the Summit, to the core group of First Ladies who launched the initiative to convene the Summit, and to the International Fund for Agricultural Development and other institutions that provided support for the Summit,

1. Welcomes the adoption by the Summit of the Geneva Declaration for Rural Women; 5/

2. Urges all States to work for the achievement of the goals endorsed in the Geneva Declaration;

3. Urges all relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to take into account the goals of the Geneva Declaration in carrying out their programmes, and invites the relevant governing bodies to consider specific measures, within their competence, to address the special needs of rural women in the light of the Geneva Declaration.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Cooperation in fisheries in Africa

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 45/184 of 21 December 1990,

Recalling also its resolutions 1990/77 of 27 July 1990 and 1991/73 of 26 July 1991,

Aware of the importance of regional and subregional agreements for the development of fishery resources,

Considering the need to encourage these initiatives, which are directed towards attaining food self-sufficiency, improving nutrition, diversifying exports, promoting employment and ensuring the sustainable development of fishery resources,

Welcoming the convening, at Rabat in 1989 and at Dakar in 1991, of the first and second sessions of the Ministerial Conference on Cooperation in Fisheries among the African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean,

1. Takes note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation in fisheries in Africa 6/ and the oral report by the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

5/ A/47/308-E/1992/97, annex.

6/ A/47/279-E/1992/79.

2. Welcomes the progress achieved in implementing the cooperation programmes of the Ministerial Conference on Cooperation in Fisheries among the African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean;

3. Invites the Conference to intensify its activities with a view to ensuring the sustainable development of fishery resources, in particular through the adoption of effective norms in the area of fisheries planning and management, further encouragement for the compilation and dissemination of fishery statistics as well as marine scientific research, and for the protection and continued monitoring of the marine resources of the region;

4. Welcomes the support shown by the organizations of the United Nations system and by donor countries for the achievement of Conference objectives;

5. Reiterates its appeal to the international community, organizations of the United Nations system, donor countries and international and regional financial institutions to contribute generously to the implementation of Conference programmes and projects;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Economic and Social Council, at its substantive session of 1994, a report by the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, working in cooperation with the other relevant organizations and in close consultation with the Acting Chairman of the Conference, on the progress achieved in the implementation of the present resolution and on the outcome of the third session of the Ministerial Conference on Cooperation in Fisheries among the African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean, to be held in Cape Verde in 1993;

7. Decides to include in the agenda of its substantive session of 1994 an item entitled "Cooperation in fisheries in Africa".

DRAFT RESOLUTION III

Combating aridity, soil erosion, salinity, water-logging, desertification and the effects of drought in South Asia

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1991/97 of 26 July 1991,

Taking note of the interim note by the Secretary-General on the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/97, 7/

Stressing that South Asia, one of the most populous regions in the world, contains significant areas subject to aridity, soil erosion, salinity,

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7/ E/1992/53.

water-logging, desertification and the effects of drought, which affect the lives of millions of people and the entire environment of the region,

Stressing also the importance of the study requested in its resolution 1991/97 in the context of national and international cooperative efforts,

1. Notes with concern that the complete implementation of resolution 1991/97 could not be carried out and its results presented to the Council at its substantive session of 1992;

2. Urges the Secretary-General, in full compliance with resolution 1991/97, to submit the study to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

26. The Economic Committee also recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Documents considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with the question of development and international economic cooperation

The Economic and Social Council takes note of the following documents:

(a) Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the work of its third special session; 8/

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the further substantive follow-up of General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187 by Governments and organizations of the United Nations system; 9/

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on products harmful to health and the environment; 10/

(d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the note and report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on the resource and other implications of the application of the new criteria for identifying the least developed countries on the implementation of the Programme of Action for those countries for the 1990s; 11/

8/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/47/25).

9/ A/47/121-E/1992/15.

10/ A/47/222-E/1992/57 and Corr.1

11/ A/47/278-E/1992/77.

(e) Report of the Committee for Development Planning on its twenty-eighth session; 12/

(f) World Economic Survey, 1992; 13/

(g) Report of the Secretary-General on the main research findings of the United Nations system in major global economic and social trends, policies and emerging issues. 14/

12/ E/1992/27; to be issued as Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1992, Supplement No. 7.

13/ E/1992/40 and Corr.1 and 2.

14/ E/1992/46.